

engravings of which excited the admiration of all who saw them. Many readily recognized several of the bones delineated, and expressed their surprise at the great accuracy with which they were represented, even, as many remarked, to the 'marks of age upon the bones.' The 'old bones' (by many considered useless, and thrown away, or which, as some informed me, were broken to discover if they were really bones or stones assuming their forms) they never imagined could be so treated by palæontologists, who they were not aware possessed the power, until they saw these works, of depicting the ancient race of Australian animals, re-forming them into living structures, imparting to these long extinct animals the motion of animated life, and, as fossils bear the marks of their relative antiquity, are enabled to fix the date of the rock in which they are found.

"I remain, my dear Owen,

"Sydney, New South Wales.

"Your sincere Friend,

"Dec. 22, 1871."

"GEORGE BENNETT, M.D."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Osteology of the Solitaire.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—Prof. Owen remarks on a statement in my former letter concerning an inquiry made of him:—"Had this been so, I could not have forgotten the circumstance." Now "this" was "so;" and I can therefore only regret his memory has so sadly failed him.

Whatever "incidental mention of the Solitaire's bones" might have been made "in one of the basement storerooms" of the British Museum, the particular inquiry in question was expressly put to him in his own room upstairs.

My brother, writing from Mauritius in December 1860, informed me that these bones had been sent to Prof. Owen; and when it became necessary for us to enumerate all the known remains of the Solitaire, we of course endeavoured to obtain particulars of them from him. To obtain these was one of the chief objects of our calling upon him at the time he mentions. He had previously by letter kindly made arrangements whereby we could examine the bones of the Dodo in the "storeroom," for which arrangements we thanked him.

Prof. Owen repeats the assertion that "he first learnt" our "interest in the subject" from our paper in the 'Philosophical Transactions.' This, as I have already said, is not the case any more than that he can have "satisfied" any inquirer into the fate of the specimens by the "information" he has given. His final disclaimer, in the same sentence, of intending any "imputation of carelessness" requires acknowledgment from me. I only wish it had been expressed sooner, but trust that, now made, it will end the matter.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Your obedient Servant,

9 March, 1872.

ALFRED NEWTON.